



WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

KNOW YOUR PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION RIGHTS

Washington law protects all residents from certain unfair and discriminatory practices in any place of public resort, accommodation, assemblage, or amusement.

What is a place of public accommodation?

Examples include but are not limited to restaurants, hotels, stores, hospitals, government offices, theaters, schools, and public libraries.

WHO IS PROTECTED FROM DISCRIMINATION?

The law prohibits discrimination in places of public accommodation because of a person's:

- Race
- Creed
- Color
- National Origin
- Sex
- Marital Status
- The presence of a disability, or
- The use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The law also prohibits retaliation for opposing an unfair practice.

WHAT IS ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION?

Based on the above, a place of public accommodation may not:

- Engage in any act that directly or indirectly results in any distinction, restriction, or discrimination.
- Require any person to pay a larger sum than the uniform rates charged to other persons.
- Refuse or withhold from any person admission, patronage, custom, presence, frequenting, dwelling, staying, or lodging, except for conditions and limitations established by law and applicable to all persons.

The Law Against Discrimination does not require structural changes, modifications, or additions to make any place accessible to a person with a disability except as otherwise required by law. Behavior or actions constituting a risk to property or other persons can be grounds for refusal and shall not constitute an unfair practice.



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HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT

If you believe that you have been discriminated against, contact the nearest Commission office within 6 months of the alleged harmful act or event. An Intake Officer will review your situation and assist you in determining whether there is a basis for filing a complaint. Please inform the Commission if you need an accommodation due to a disability or limited English proficiency.

For more information visit our Web Site
www.wa.gov/hrc

OLYMPIA HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

PHONE: (360) 753-6770
TOLL FREE: 1(800) 233-3247
TTY TOLL FREE: 1(800) 300-7525
Se Habla Español

SEATTLE DISTRICT OFFICE

PHONE: (206) 464-6500
TTY: (206) 587-5168

SPOKANE DISTRICT OFFICE

PHONE: (509) 456-4473

YAKIMA DISTRICT OFFICE

PHONE: (509) 575-2772
Se Habla Español

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